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Message Text

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----------076874 272324Z /13
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MANILA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, RP

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL LETTER TO MARCOS:

REF: MANILA 6738

1. FYI. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF LETTER DELIVERED TO PHILIP-
PINE EMBASSY APRIL 26 FOR TRANSMITTAL TO PRESIDENT
MARCOS. LETTER DRAFTED BY CONGRESSMAN BURKE BEDELL AND
SIGNED BY HIM AND 123 OTHER CONGRESSMEN.

2. BEGIN TEXT QUOTE DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:

FOR SOME TIME WE HAVE BEEN CONCERNED OVER REPEATED REPORTS
OF VIOLATIONS OF BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS UNDER YOUR LEADERSHIP
AND THE REPRESSION OF THE FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND THE
RIGHT TO EXPRESS OPINIONS IN OPPOSITION TO YOUR GOVERN-
MENT'S PROGRAMS, AND WE BELIEVE THAT MEANINGFUL EFFORTS
TO REDRESS THIS SITUATION ARE CRUCIAL TO CONTINUED UNITED
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STATES AID TO YOUR GOVERNMENT.

OURS IS NOT A LIGHT INTEREST IN YOUR COUNTRY. THE PEOPLE
OF THE UNITED STATES FEEL A STRONG HISTORICAL AFFINITY TO
THE PEOPLE OF THE PHILIPPINES, AND, AS A CLOSE MILITARY
ALLY, WE OF COURSE SUPPORT THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF

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YOUR COUNTRY.

AT THE SAME TIME, WE ARE ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF THE PHILIPPINE PEOPLE. ANY GOVERNMENT THAT PREVENTS THE FREE EXCHANGE OF IDEAS, FAILS TO ADEQUATELY ACCOUNT FOR THE NEEDS OF THE POOR AND IMPRISONS THOSE WHO SPEAK OUT FOR PEACEFUL CHANGE CANNOT CONTINUE TO RECEIVE OUR SUPPORT. IN OUR JUDGMENT, THE IMPLEMENTATION OF GENUINE ECONOMIC AND HUMAN RIGHTS REFORMS IN THE PHILIPPINES ARE ESSENTIAL TO OUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF YOUR GOVERNMENT.

WE WERE THUS PLEASED WHEN YOU ANNOUNCED THAT THE FIRST ELECTIONS SINCE THE IMPOSITION OF MARTIAL LAW IN 1972 WOULD BE HELD IN YOUR COUNTRY, WE HOPED THAT THESE ELECTIONS WOULD CONSTITUTE A SIGNIFICANT FIRST STEP TOWARD THE RESTORATION OF DEMOCRATIC PROCEDURES IN THE PHILIPPINES. HOWEVER, WE WERE DISMAYED WHEN WE LEARNED THAT THE LOCATIONS OF POLLING PLACES WERE NOT ANNOUNCED UNTIL THE LAST DAY, THAT REGISTRATION LISTS WERE NOT MADE AVAILABLE TO THE OPPOSITION, THAT ASSEMBLIES WERE NOT ALLOWED, THAT BARANGAY LEADERS WERE GIVEN THE POWER TO DECIDE WHO COULD VOTE AND WHO COULD NOT, AND THAT INDIVIDUALS WHO SPOKE OUT DURING THE ELECTIONS WERE ARRESTED ON THE FOLLOWING DAY. YOUR HEAVY-HANDED ACTIONS AGAINST THOSE WHO OPPOSED GOVERNMENT CANDIDATES DURING THE ELECTIONS MAKES A CHARADE OF THEIR VERY IMPLEMENTATION.
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WE WOULD TRULY LIKE TO CONTINUE THE CLOSE RELATIONSHIP THAT HAS EXISTED BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. HOWEVER, IT IS DIFFICULT FOR US TO DO SO UNLESS THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PHILIPPINES DEMONSTRATES A SINCERE INTEREST IN THE PHILIPPINE PEOPLE THROUGH THE GENUINE ESTABLISHMENT OF POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND POLICE REFORMS. END TEXT. END FYI.

3. SIMILAR LETTER URGING CAREFUL EXAMINATION BY USG OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN PHILIPPINES HAS BEEN ADDRESSED TO SECRETARY BY 21 CONGRESSMEN.

4. TEXTS OF BOTH LETTERS BEING HAND-CARRIED BY OAKLEY. DURING YOUR APPOINTMENT WITH ENRILE APRIL 28, YOU SHOULD TELL HIM OF LETTERS AND OF HIRC CUT OF $5 MILLION IN GRANT MAP LEGISLATION APRIL 26 AS EVIDENCE OF PRESENT MOOD OF CONGRESS. VANCE

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